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La Vista 

"Aruba Without the Refinery - Planning Creates Opportunities" Conference



**KvK Board President
Jamal Mahawat Khan**

Yesterday morning, a number of financial and business analysts shared their expertise and opinion regarding what they consider a very important element in Aruba's economic progress: facing the hard truth that an operating refinery is no longer a viable element of Aruba's economic future "and it is time to move on."

"Moving on" would be making and executing plans to deploy this enormous piece of island real estate, and using the existing and possible attributes to best economic advantage, while keeping in mind the current administration's policy of the "greening" of Aruba. It was pointed out by Moderator Ryan Maduro that a refinery in operation is a dichotomy in that policy.

Several aspects and well-research ideas were proposed along with feasible plans that would be in accord with proposed measures by the current administration to see Aruba as a financial hub between Europe and the Americas. These will be detailed in coming articles.

The conference was organized by Aruba's Chamber of Commerce (KvK) and conducted at the Renaissance Convention Center. Guest Speakers included KvK Board President Jamal Mahawat Khan speaking

on "Our Destiny in Our Hands," Daniel Brete, discussing "The Port Facility Options in San Nicolas Harbor," Patrick Newton of KPMG presented "Building Business Value in a Changing World," Vernon Huerta of Ernst & Young discussed "Positioning of Aruba as an Economic Gateway between Latin America and the EU," and Michael-Leo van Romondt of Deloitte, concluded with "San Nicolas Rebranded and other Possibilities for Aruba's Future."



KvK Director Leo Maduro

sion that "the disappearance of the oil industry from Aruba was a very real possibility" and finding an alternative use for the area was imperative. "The options of finding an alternative operator willing to invest what was required to meet the challenges of today's oil industry, all faded. In May of 2012, even when negotiations regarding the final deposition of the refinery were not concluded, the KvK felt we could no longer postpone the obligation to look forward, to look to the future."

"It was not only necessary to contemplate the economic potential of the refinery premises, including its harbor, but to also take a cold, hard look at the area surrounding the refinery," he continued.

Continued on page 6



Daniel Brete

KvK Director Leo Maduro, welcomed all and announced the entire morning was being broadcast live on local TV, to reach out to all that could not be physically present. Based on the KvK's internal research conducted long before the actual closing of the refinery last year, it has been their conclu-



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Aruba's Public Library is organizing an exposition titled: "The reader"

ORANJESTAD -- All (amateur -) photographers are invited to participate. All that needs to be done is take a shot of a person reading (child, teenager, or adult). They can be reading a book, iPad, E-reader, newspaper or magazine, the medium does not matter. They can be reading where ever, such as in the yard, at the beach side, in a waiting room etc.

What the photographer is supposed to capture is the image of the reader being totally enthralled by what they are reading, where you can see

the love and enjoyment that reading is giving to that person at that moment.

What must one keep in mind?

- Send in your photo before April 28th
- The exposition is open for all ages
- The photo must be taken on Aruba
- The person on the photo must give consent to snap their photo
- It has to be an original photo where you only have author rights, and no other

Continued on page 3

Aruba embraces many strategic partners in our Public Health

The government of Aruba is working very closely with different strategic partners in the field of Public Health. Among these partners are the Pan American Health Association (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), which is working with countries around the world dispensing information, technical assistance and prevention means.

With respect to the Horacio Oduber Hospital, there is an agreement, for example, with the prestigious Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam for the Primary Care Physicians educational program. Graduated medical students working on their specializations can choose to do their internship in Aruba. This internship, called "co-schapen," is a very special internship for medical specializations lasting three years, which also includes a scientific internship.

As to IMSAN, the principal partner here is Baptist Health of South Florida. They are working diligently on establishing an internationally recognized Oncology center primarily for Aruban patients. The intention is to be able to offer care at the highest level, to include diagnostic, chemotherapy and radiotherapy. The surgical aspect will continue to be offered at the Hospital, where there is excellent pre-care, operation rooms and post-operative care. IMSAN, together with Baptist Health of South Florida expects to provide services to patients in our region as well, with the goal of developing this into medical tourism.

With the renovation and expansion of Horacio Oduber Hospital, and the expansion of IMSAN, they will add one Emergency Room, as well as a complete diabetic's car-



rousel and an Oncology center.

We are reminded of the different positive developments during the past three years, such as the process of professionalization and expansion of the Ambulance service; first primary care physicians who completed their specialization here in Aruba and are already working; the professionalization of doctor's assistants; and the professionalization of nurses working with primary care physicians providing guidance and assistance to pa-

tients with non-contagious chronic diseases. In addition to these, the introduction of IBI Sa and the "Bus di Salud."

The AZV has agreements with various hospitals in Latin America and Holland, where AZV sends Aruban patients for different treatments and therapies. These hospitals and clinics abroad are also recognized. AZV is always on the lookout for the best partners for her patients in keeping with the patient's diagnosis and the care that the Aruban specialist recommends.





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Aruba's Public Library is organizing...

Continued from page 2



- Files must be bigger than 1 MB and preferably jpg / 300 dpi
- Photo must be taken in 2013
- Only minor manipulations are permitted such as: some color correction or brighter or darker. No Photoshop manipulation or of any other software
- Only 1 photo can be send in
- The photo cannot be provocative nor offensive
- The photo must be

submitted digitally to beeparuba@gmail.com.

Three to four persons will do a pre-selection. The public will be able to vote for the most popular photo.

The exposition will be at the Public Library beginning June until the end of Aruba's Summer School vacation. This exposition will be the décor of the reading festival June 12 & 13, 2013 and at the same time function as a way to promote reading.

Aruban Port receives international attention!

The Aruba Ports Authority is located in Aruba, an exciting Southern Caribbean island who is able to cater to cruise travelers looking for efficient and world-class services before and after their cruise. It is conveniently accessible to the Queen Beatrix International airport, who has a Strategic Co-operation Agreement with Schiphol International, houses a U.S. INS/Customs facility, and offers services to all parts of the world, making it one of the leading airports in the Caribbean.

The main cruise terminal facility in Oranjestad combines visual appeal, passenger convenience, accessibility and innovative security systems. Passenger bus and taxi services are located immediately outside the terminal. A covered walkway connects the arrival hall area to the main pedestrian exit where visitors can catch a trolley for a tour of town. The terminal is located in proximity to fine restaurants, hotels, and world famous beaches which make it an ideal point of disembarkation.

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Cigar Emporium	Gucci	Pier Minimarket
GiGusta	Guess	Ralph Lauren
Coach	Guess Kids	Starbucks
CosoSol	Hilfiger Denim	Sunspecs
Custo Barcelona	Kenneth Cole	Vilebrequin

Happy Easter!



Located in the heart of Oranjestad at the Renaissance Resort

Aruba Ports Authority looks back at a very successful Cruise Shipping Miami (CSM) conference. It was a time of meeting and connecting with multiple contacts established over the past 20 years participating at this conference.

Adjunct Director of Aruba Ports Authority, Humphrey Tromp and Marketing and Communications Manager, Tamara Waldron attended all workshops related to the cruise industry. They also attended numerous meetings. Sir Werleman, APA representative provided all those interested with information about our port and the new developments.

What APA considers so valuable was the attention and recognition they received from the press during the entire week. Aruba's port was featured in all magazines distributed among the cruise lines, and to members of the cruise industry. The highlight was the interest in the 3-tier client list: 1. executives of cruise lines; 2. travel agents selling the cruise itinerary; 3. the consumer visiting the port. In addition to all of this, APA director Alfonso Boekhoudt was profiled in extensive editorials and classified as a true expert in the cruise industry.

APA came prepared to this

NORTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Aruba in ascent

Following impressive visitor figures in 2012, record growth is expected this year, says port director Alfonso Boekhoudt

Aruba Ports Authority is ready to welcome in a record-breaking year with 340 calls and an average of 2,000 passengers scheduled to arrive in 2013, an increase of 15 per cent over 2012, when the port welcomed 294 calls.

We are looking at a projected increase of 20 per cent more visitors than in 2012, which represents around 100,000 more passengers visiting our port this year.

On the first day of January alone, the port accommodated a significant number of cruise ships including Thomson Cruise, Princess Cruise, Coral Princess and Grand Princess, and Holland America's Maasdam.

In addition, this first month marked another historical record with a total of 115,542 cruise passengers arriving in Aruba.

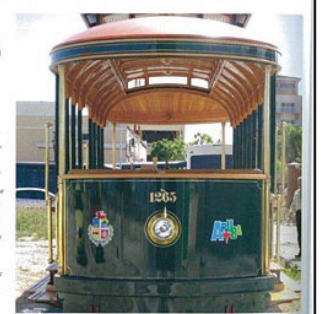
Our projections of cruise ship arrivals for 2013 are based on the fact that the port has a 98 per cent occupancy rate – more ships arrived at 100 per cent occupancy levels. These figures represent a 24.5 per cent increase over January 2012.

Safety and security will not be compromised despite the greater passenger numbers. Additional security measures have been implemented to ensure the increase in passengers does not impact on the high safety and security standards we uphold.

By the end of 2013, Aruba is expecting to have received a total of six strategic calls from Paul Grogan Cruise's Tropic Express, Carnival's Queen Elizabeth, Oceania's Riviera and Marina, All Cruise Group's Alexander von Humboldt and TUI's MSa Schöller.

The port will see more calls from Royal Caribbean International, Norwegian Cruise Lines and Pullmantour during the summer months, with increasing visits from Carnival and Princess are expected to reach 150 per cent – 60,000 more passengers – over 2012's May to September season.

Disembarking cruise guests can, for the first time, skip some of the usual delays immediately at the passenger exit gate, before being transported on a trolley through



A new trolley at the passenger exit gate takes cruise guests on a trolley tour of Oranjestad.

down town Oranjestad, where they can eat, shop, visit local museums and take photos of the city's Dutch geographical landmarks.

Prizes of interest along the route include the Aruba Beach House, Florio Wild, Cas Henriquez and the Archaeological Museum of Aruba, the Protestant Church, Government offices, House of Parliament, the historical museum of Fort Zoutman and the town hall.

"We are looking at a projected increase of 20 per cent more cruise visitors than in 2012"

conference with information to market Aruba Ports as a home port. In view of the fact that the South Caribbean region is becoming more popular as a result of the ECA regulation in the USA which is encouraging cruise lines to send their ships to home port in our region. Aruba was keen on captivating on this aspect of the business.

In addition to promoting our port, they also shared information regarding all the developments in and around the port and the city center, which has made our destination even more attractive and interesting. They emphasized the importance of the continuous re-vamping of our Caribbean destinations making infrastructural changes around our ports the ideal situation sought after by cruise lines.

PowerFM 101.7 organizes 1st Powerthon: all proceeds go to Mary Joan Foundation



Recently Mr. Ruben Garcia director of Power FM radio station announced that April 7 they will be organizing their first Powerthon. This activity is planned to be an annual event where the radio station will organize a radiothon benefitting one of the foundations in our community, this way supporting a good cause. This year Mary Joan Breast Cancer Support Group was chosen as the first beneficiary. Looking back on the good work the foundation has been doing over the years.

The goal of PowerFM's power team is to raise Afl. 101,700. which reflects on the frequency of the radio station. The activity will be in front of PowerFM from 10 am – 7 p.m.

As it is already known this foundation works tirelessly to help those affected by breast cancer. Mary Joan receives no subsidy. All their funds are based on donations of sponsors and at their fundraisings visited by the community. Such an example is Pink Walk which took place at the end of the month of October.

Mary Joan offers:

- * Assistance Social Worker
- * Assistance of a psychologist
- * Different brochures in Papiamentu regarding:
 - Cancer and nutrition
 - Care of the skin during and after radiation therapy
 - Cancer and movement
 - Do not face breast cancer alone
 - Cancer and physiotherapy
- * Douche card for monthly breast control
- * Individual and group session support
- * Creative Activity
- * Physical activity under guidance of a professional during six weeks
- * Monthly lectures regarding the disease of breast

All these services are completely free for everyone. All financial support helps this Foundation to continue providing breast cancer awareness materials and also offer these services for free to their clients. So Aruba is asked to

give their support to a good cause!

Ways to contribute to this cause:

1. Via a Bank transfer: Aruba Bank Acc# 2261050190, description Powerthon donation.
2. Open a standing order on April 7th at the activity and make a donation for a monthly sum for a year's duration. All banks have a special standing order form

to fill out for this event. A valid ID is required.

3. Donation via telephone during the activity
4. Cash donation at the event or at collecting spots
5. Purchasing promo articles of the foundation during the event



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SETAR N.V. and Gabriel Flores Foundation announce Thursday, March 28th as deadline to deliver recycled pre-paid phone cards project!



SETAR and Gabriel Flores Foundation wishes to remind all schools that Thursday, March 28th is the last day to deliver their school project

made of recycled phone cards. SETAR and the Gabriel Flores Foundation initiated the campaign where all primary schools on the is-

land, teachers and parents would collect used pre-paid phone cards to be used after as school project by the schools, giving them the opportunity to win different prizes for their schools. Now the final is here and a competition is going to be held among all the projects brought in. One can still register via telephone 5668115 or via suzy.-maduro@setar.aw. This e-mail address is being protected from spam bots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it. One can also register via Fundashongabriel flores@hotmail.com.

Last year's winner was "Bon Bini" school in Madiki.



SETAR wishes to thank all the participating schools during the school year 2012-2013. A special 'thank you' goes to all the students who gathered the SETAR pre-paid

phone cards and collected them for their school to participate and win great prizes.

Together we will keep Aruba clean!

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US Supreme Court cautious on same-sex marriage

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Supreme Court trod cautiously yesterday as it considered gay marriage, with justices appearing hesitant to deliver a sweeping historic verdict on the emotionally charged issue.

On a day long-awaited by both sides of the debate, thousands of gay rights advocates waving US and rainbow flags descended on the Court, outnumbering a rally of religious activists opposed to same-sex marriage.

The Supreme Court will take months to issue a ruling but several justices indicated that they would be in no hurry to make a verdict that could extend the right to same-sex marriage to the entire country.

Justice Anthony Kennedy, whose remarks are closely watched as he is often the swing vote on the nine-member bench, voiced reluctance for the Court to step into "un-

charted waters" on a case involving Californian law.

Kennedy said there was a lack of sociological data to judge the effect of same-sex marriage, saying: "We have five years of information to weigh against 2,000 years of history or more."

But Kennedy also expressed sympathy for an estimated 40,000 children living in California with same-sex couples, saying: "They want their parents to have full recognition and full status."

Justice Samuel Alito, a conservative, also spoke of a "lack of data" on same-sex marriage since it was first legalized in The Netherlands in 2001.

"You want us to step in and render a decision based on an assessment of the effects of this institution which is newer than cellphones or the Internet?" he said.

Liberal justices argued it was discriminatory to define

marriage solely by whether a couple can bear children. Justice Elena Kagan said that by the same argument, the government could ban marriages of couples above age 55.

Nine US states and the capital Washington allow same-sex marriage.

Some rights advocates hope the Supreme Court will guarantee gay marriage across the United States, while opponents want to leave the decision to state lawmakers.

The top court is hearing two cases.

The first concerns the constitutionality of California's "Proposition 8," the ballot initiative through which in 2008 voters ended right to same-sex marriage in the nation's most populous state.

Today, the court will consider the Defense of Marriage Act, a federal law which defines marriage as an act between a man and woman.

"Aruba Without the Refinery

Continued from page 1



Parliamentarians Donny Rasmijn, Juan David Iraisquin, Lorna Varlak, Paul Croes with Jamal Khan

He pointed out that despite what the oil business has meant to Aruba, and the re-opening of the refinery in 1991 after being closed and the departure of Exxon, the surrounding community has never been able to recover to the level of prosperity it enjoyed prior to its closing in 1985.

The return of commerce and jobs to San Nicolas is something the KvK feels would be of great benefit to Aruba. Mr. Maduro noted that the strong showing at yesterday's conference was indicative of the general interest and concern to see this happen among the community.

"All the faces I see here today is an acknowledgement that we are all responsible for the future of this country," he commented. "We are looking forward, recognizing that the future of this island is not the exclusive right or obligation of the government. We are looking forward, and I thank you for that. The contributions made by the invited speakers may not cover all aspects of the issue... here is where you as the audience come in, and we invite any of you come forward to contribute to the debate."

Moderator Ryan Maduro, a Dean of Students at Aruba's Educativo Profesional Intermedio, EPI, the island's higher level technical and business school, remarked that since a year after Valero stopped all refining operations, the question that we are all asking is "Now What?"

"There are many factors that we as a community need take into account as we try to understand the scope of the impact of not having a refinery,"

he continued. "For example: the developments in the Caribbean and Latin American region, especially when it comes to the oil industry and refineries, the global movement towards green energies and ecologically-friendly alternatives; the advances in technology and the world political, social and economic realities, just to mention a few."

"The ability to take responsibility for our own destiny as a country, is critical, as we unfold this new reality of not having a refinery. What are the options? What are the advantages of these disadvantages? When should this paradigm shift happen? How are we going to develop a new reality? Who needs to be involved in creating this vision, and, subsequently, executing it? Who will need to perform the strategic alliances to make this paradigm happen?"

"In the past years there have been enough discussions, a bundle of studies and recommendations made by experts and various opportunities and strategies explored. However, the bottom line is, that we, as a community, need to be informed of the realities, the implications, the consequences, the opportunities and the threats. We need to be allowed to have a continuous, open dialog, evaluate the various options...and most important of all, it is time to take our destiny in our hands."

The five panelists then presented their theoretical and practical ideas for the economic future of Aruba and San Nicolas, which, for lack of space, will be presented in detail in subsequent articles.

Rosalie Klein

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International News

US store refuses rifle to shot lawmaker's husband

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - A US gun store refused to sell a rifle to the husband of former US congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, who has become a champion of the anti-gun lobby since her 2011 shooting.

Diamondback Police Supply said it had given former astronaut Mark Kelly a refund for the Sig Sauer M400 5.56mm assault rifle he ordered, because it suspected he had ulterior motives for seeking to buy a weapon.

The Arizona gun supplier's owner Douglas MacKinlay said he would give the rifle to a local police group and donate \$1,295 to an organization which teaches children about guns.

"While I support and respect Mark Kelly's 2nd Amendment rights to purchase, possess ... his recent statements to the media made it clear that his intent in purchasing from us was for reasons other than for his personal use," he said.

Kelly told CNN earlier this month he wanted to have "first-hand knowledge about how easy it is or difficult it is to buy" an assault weapon.

"It is actually pretty easy. You know, for a weapon that's so deadly and really designed for the military, especially with the high-capacity magazines, it is a pretty easy thing to do, even with a background check," he said.

"In light of this fact, I determined that it was in my company's best interest to terminate this transaction," even before Kelly took the necessary steps for a background check, MacKinlay said on his company's Facebook page.

The store said the rifle will be donated to the Arizona Tactical Officers Association, which represents SWAT police officers, to be raffled off to raise funds to buy equipment for the group's members.

The Tucson gun store will also donate the price of an M400 rifle to the Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program which teaches young children about guns.

Giffords was shot in the head at point blank range and grievously wounded in January 2011 while meeting constituents in Tucson, in an attack by a deranged gunman which killed six people.

ETA warns Spain of 'negative consequences'

MADRID (AFP) - The armed Basque separatist group ETA warned Tuesday that the Spanish government's refusal to negotiate with its leaders will have "negative consequences" and "make it harder to find a solution to the conflict".

ETA, blamed for more than 800 deaths in a four-decade campaign of bombings and shootings for the independence of the Basque homeland which straddles northern Spain and southwestern France, announced a "definitive end" to its armed activity in October 2011.

But the group has not formally disarmed or disbanded as demanded by Madrid and Paris and the Spanish govern-

ment has repeatedly declined to take part in talks with the outfit.

In a statement published in the website of Basque newspaper Gara, ETA called the Spanish government's refusal to take part in talks with its leaders in Norway "a step backwards" in the statement dated March 17 carried Tuesday by the online edition of its mouthpiece Gara.

Several ETA leaders have recently been expelled from Norway where they had met with international mediators and representatives of left-wing Basque independence movement, according to Spanish media reports.

Spanish Prime Minister

Mariano Rajoy reiterated on March 13 his government's refusal to negotiate with the group, which is listed as a terrorist organisation by the United States and the European Union.

ETA repeated that it was willing to talk of disarmament as part of an "agenda of dialogue" if certain conditions are met first, such as the regroupment of hundreds of ETA prisoners held in jails across Spain and France to the Basque region.

ETA has been weakened in recent years by a loss of support among Basque people, and repeated raids by Spanish and French security forces. Its last attack on Spanish soil was in August 2009.

Qatar urges \$1 bn fund for Palestinians in east Jerusalem

DOHA (AFP) - Qatar's emir called on Tuesday for the immediate establishment of a \$1 billion fund to help Palestinians in annexed east Jerusalem, and offered to contribute \$250 million towards it.

Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, made the proposal at the opening of an Arab League summit, saying other Arab countries must provide the remainder, and that the fund would be run by the Islamic Bank in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

He gave no details for its implementation.

The Gulf Arab state last year promised \$400 million to help rebuild the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip, heavily damaged by successive Israeli military operations, the latest in November 2012.

The emir also proposed holding an Arab mini-summit in Egypt aimed at reconciliation between the Islamist Hamas movement and its rival Fatah, which controls the West

Bank and is headed by president Mahmud Abbas.

In a speech to the summit, Abbas welcomed the aid proposal and the offer to host talks with Hamas.

Hamas also welcomed the Qatari initiative, praising "the Egyptian, Arab and Islamic efforts to support and speed up Palestinian national reconciliation and unification," spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said in a statement.

Reconciliation efforts between Fatah and Hamas, which has controlled Gaza since 2007 after ousting Fatah forces, stalled after an agreement in Doha in February 2012 between Abbas and Hamas chief Khaled Meshaal.

Qatar's simultaneous offer of funds for east Jerusalem came as Abbas's Palestinian Authority was debating a draft budget amounting to \$3.9 billion, of which it said \$1.4 billion would have to come from foreign financing.

Prime minister Salam

Fayyad lamented foreign governments' failure to honour their aid pledges as he presented the 2013 draft budget to politicians and economists in Ramallah, the seat of the Palestinian Authority, on Monday.

On Friday, following a three-day visit by US President Barack Obama to Jerusalem and Ramallah, a top official in Washington said the US had unblocked almost \$500 million in aid to the Palestinian Authority that had been frozen by Congress for months.

And Israel is to immediately unblock revenues it collects on behalf of the Palestinian Authority, frozen last year in retaliation for the Palestinians winning upgraded UN status, the Israeli premier's office said on Monday.

Total 2013 expenditure, including on development, would amount to almost \$3.9 billion, the Palestinian Authority draft budget said.



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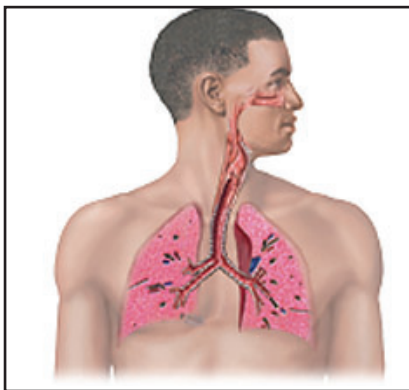
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EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

Health & Living

Septagenarian dies of 'SARS-like' virus in Munich: WHO



GENEVA (AFP) - A 73-year old Saudi man has died in Munich from a lethal new SARS-like virus, the World Health Organisation said Tuesday, making him the 11th victim of the illness since its detection last year.

The patient had been travelling in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia before falling ill, and was transferred to Munich from Abu Dhabi on March 19, the WHO said.

Known as novel coronavirus or hCoV-EMC, the virus was first detected in mid-2012 and is a cousin of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), which triggered a scare 10 years ago

when it erupted in South-east Asia, leaping to humans from an animal host.

Coronaviruses cause most common colds and pneumonia, but are also to blame for unusual conditions such as SARS which killed more than 800 people when it swept out of China in 2003.

The new virus however is different from SARS, especially in that it causes rapid kidney failure.

However the new strain is shrouded in mystery, and the WHO does not yet know how it is transmitted or how widespread it is.

To date, 17 people have been infected and 11 have died from cases detected in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Germany and Britain. In the latter country, it affected a family, one of the members of which had visited the Middle East and Pakistan.

On Tuesday the WHO reiterated calls for vigilance in cases of severe acute respiratory infections.

North Dakota outlaws most abortions

CHICAGO (AFP) - The largely rural but newly oil-rich US state of North Dakota yesterday outlawed most abortions in a move to challenge federal laws protecting a woman's right to terminate a pregnancy.

The move came shortly after state legislators passed a law that asks voters to amend the state constitution to define life as beginning at conception.

If ratified in a November 2014 election, the amendment would grant full legal protection to embryos and fetuses and could outlaw some forms of birth control, stem cell research and possibly in vitro fertilization.

In the meantime, a bill signed into law yesterday will

ban any abortion after a fetal heart beat can be detected, typically around six weeks after conception when many women still don't realize they are pregnant.

There are no exceptions for rape, incest, the health of the mother or if she would lose the pregnancy anyhow as a result of a fetal abnormality.

Other bills ban abortion as a result of genetic defects or for the purpose of gender selection and would require doctors at the state's only abortion clinic to have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital.

The laws will undoubtedly prompt legal challenges -- but their supporters will welcome any chance this gives them to overturn the landmark

Supreme Court "Roe versus Wade" decision which legalized abortion in 1973.

Republican Governor Jack Dalrymple ordered the legislature to allocate funds to fight any legal challenges and expressed hope he may prevail with the fetal heartbeat bill.

The Supreme Court refused to review the Roe decision legalizing abortion at the end of October, turning away a petition on an amendment to Oklahoma's state constitution that would have granted "personhood" to embryos.

Other cases dealing with abortion are expected to come before the court in the coming months as more states pass laws that place greater restrictions on the procedure.

FDA's warning against Temporary tattoos



-- A henna tattoo looks like a fun beach souvenir -- until you break out in a rash and blisters. The dyes used for the popular temporary tattoos aren't always natural or safe, the Food and Drug Administration warned today. "Black henna" used to make the intricate designs darker often doesn't come from a plant, but from a harsh chemical that causes allergic reactions. The bad actor is p-phenylenediamine (PPD), a chemical derived from coal tar that can cause skin allergies. It's sold as hair dye, and sometimes people doing henna tattoos use it because it dries faster and has a darker hue than the brownish red of traditional henna. But PPD isn't supposed to be used on the skin. These problems have been cropping up for a while, and aren't restricted to spring break silliness.

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Sci-Tech

Tablets fueling surge in smart devices: study



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Tablet computers fueled growth in 2012 in the market for "smart connected devices," which crossed the threshold of one billion units for the first time, a study showed Tuesday.

A report by the research firm IDC said worldwide shipments of these devices -- personal computers, tablets and smartphones -- grew 29.1 percent in 2012 to 1.2 billion units with a value of \$576.9 billion.

The expansion was largely driven by 78.4 percent growth in tablet shipments, which hit 128 million in 2012.

IDC said sales of desktop and portable personal computers fell 4.1 percent and 3.4 percent, respectively, for the year, while smartphones were up 46 percent.

Looking ahead, IDC forecast tablet shipments will surpass desktop PCs in 2013 and portable PCs in 2014. It predicted tablet sales would grow another 48.7 percent this year to 190 million units.

The smartphone market is expected to grow 27.2 percent to 918.5 million units, IDC said, and sales of traditional PCs will struggle again, especially in emerging economies.

IDC said Apple closed the gap with market leader Samsung in the fourth quarter, as the combination of Apple's iPhone 5 and iPad Mini

brought Apple up to 20.3 percent market share versus 21.2 percent for Samsung for these devices.

But because Apple devices are pricier, the US firm had 30.7 percent of revenues to 20.4 percent for Samsung.

IDC predicts the worldwide smart connected device space will continue to surge with shipments hitting 2.2 billion units and revenues of \$814.3 billion in 2017.

Iceland sees unusual seismic activity at Hekla volcano



REYKJAVIK (AFP) - Iceland on Tuesday reported unusual seismic activity at Mount Hekla, one of its most active volcanos, and raised its alert level but said no eruption was imminent.

The Icelandic Met Office said it had raised its aviation warning level a notch Tuesday for the first time in two years

following "elevated unrest above a known background level during the last weeks."

The office told AFP there was no smoke rising from the mountain, but dark clouds seen from the ground could lead people to think there had been an eruption.

The alert level for the aviation industry was raised from "green" to "yellow", which it described as a precautionary measure due to the volcano's "increased earthquake activity."

Emergency services said in a separate statement that they had declared "an uncertainty phase", the lowest level of warning issued for events "that may threaten public health and safety, or that an environment or inhabited area may be threatened."

The eruption of Iceland's Eyjafjoell volcano in April 2010 stranded more than eight million travellers as volcanic ash spread across Europe.

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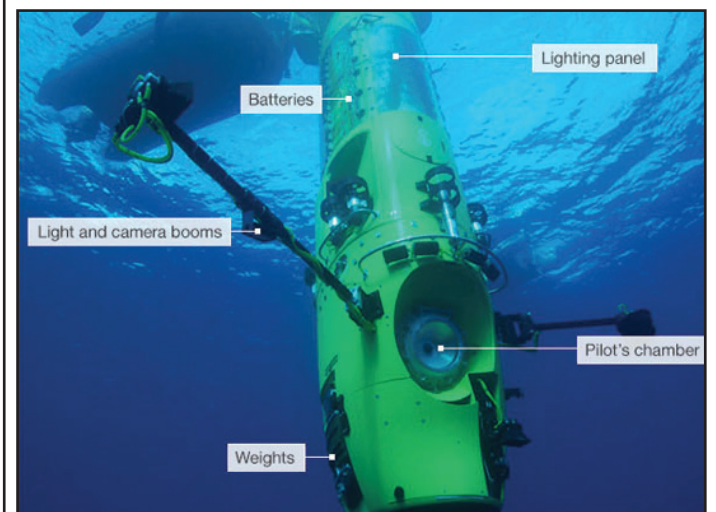
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James Cameron has donated the one-man submarine within which he descended to the bottom of the planet's deepest chasm last year to the largest independent oceanographic research institution in the USA. The Oscar-winning director of Titanic and Avatar will hand over the Deepsea Challenger sub to the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) in an announcement timed to coincide with the one-year anniversary of his historic dive into the Pacific Ocean's Mariana Trench. WHOI will use the submarine's technological advances in the organisation's ongoing efforts to build new and ever-more-effective deep-sea research vehicles.



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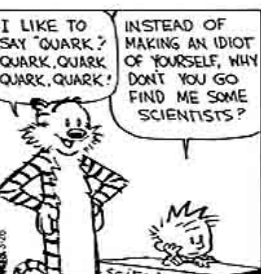
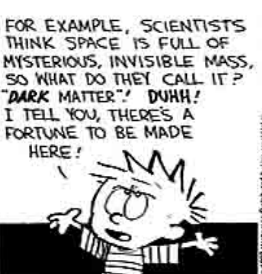
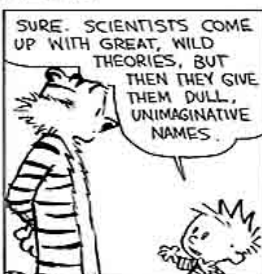
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A black and white illustration of three cartoon characters dressed in winter clothing. The character on the left is wearing a hat, scarf, and mittens. The middle character is wearing a long coat and a hat. The character on the right is wearing a hat, scarf, and mittens. They are all smiling and appear to be in a snowy environment.



CROSSWORD

1. Barn feature	36. Baby beds
5. Out of tune	39. Pulling
8. Bequest receiver	42. Places for tabs
12. Director Kazan	44. Greek letter
13. Wish undone	45. Muffle
14. Other than	47. Thick chunk
15. Took away from	50. Take roughly
17. Poetic cry	53. Very cute
18. Type of dancer (hyph.)	56. Encourage onward
19. Breather	57. Ted Turner's channel, for short
21. Headwear	58. Corporate execs
23. Garden trails	

1. Was ahead
2. Designer
Cassini
3. Mutt moniker
4. Tutored
5. Supper morsel
6. Combustible
material
7. Disgusted (2
wds.)
8. Well-being
9. Building
addition
10. "This ____

- recording" (2 wds.)
11. Dweller (abbr.)
16. Anthracite
20. "Viva ____ Vegas"
22. English beverage
24. Stereo's relative (hyph.)
25. Viewed
26. "30 Rock" network
27. All ____ (attentive)
28. Embark
29. Teen's retort
31. Standard (abbr.)
34. Space between teeth
37. Fighter jet
38. Comic Gilliam
40. "Back in the ____" (Beatles)
41. Spring flowers
43. Book pile
46. Writer Ferber
48. "...sting like ____" (2 wds.)
49. Ink smear
50. Kind of instinct
51. Train systs.
52. ____ Khan
54. Canadian prov.
55. Curvy letter

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					1	5		
	9			3	5	2		
	6						3	1
8		2	3					5
		9				4		
1					9	3		6
3	2						1	
		5	9	8			2	
		8	2					

SOLUTION

9	4	8	2	1	6	7	5	3
7	1	5	9	8	3	6	2	4
3	2	6	5	4	7	9	1	8
1	5	4	7	2	9	3	8	6
3	9	1	5	8	4	7	2	6
8	7	2	3	6	4	1	9	5
5	6	7	9	2	8	3	5	1
4	9	1	8	3	5	2	6	7
8	3	6	7	1	5	4	9	2

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

Cyprus making 'superhuman' efforts to reopen banks



NICOSIA (AFP) - Cyprus warned that "superhuman" efforts were needed to reopen its banks by Thursday as protests and uncertainty about the island's top lender showed that its huge bailout had not ended its troubles.

The comment by central bank governor Panicos Demetriades on Tuesday came as hundreds of angry bank workers demonstrated outside his office and thousands of students rallied against the terms of the EU-IMF rescue package.

Banks were shut for an 11th day, leaving homes and businesses on the Mediterranean island short of cash -- and there were growing doubts about whether the banks would be ready in time for the promised deadline of Thursday.

Demetriades said the delay in reopening them was to fully install capital controls that would prevent depositors from draining their accounts, and

the need to strengthen Bank of Cyprus, the number one lender.

President Nicos Anastasiades secured the 10-billion-euro (\$13-billion) bailout in Brussels early Monday, just hours before Cyprus faced bankruptcy and a possible exit from the euro.

Most European stocks and the euro rallied on Tuesday after a sharp fall the previous day when remarks by Eurogroup chief Jeroen Dijsselbloem led markets to speculate that the bailout was a model for other struggling members.

But the deal has not ended the woes of Cypriots who fear for their jobs and a future darkened by austerity.

The sense of uncertainty deepened Tuesday when Bank of Cyprus chairman Andreas Artemis suddenly tendered his resignation due to concerns about the impact of the bailout, although the board of directors later rejected it.

Hundreds of staff at the bank also flooded into its headquarters in Nicosia after it was announced that an administrator had been appointed to oversee its restructuring under the bailout, leading to them to fear for their jobs.

Chief executive Yiannis Kypri addressed them in a bid to reassure them about their jobs -- but they then marched on to the central bank building to call for the resignation of governor Demetriades.

Earlier around 2,000 students marched on the presiden-

tial palace in response to an appeal on Facebook, to express their worries about a bailout they fear will drain away savings intended for their studies.

"The Europeans, the Eurogroup, the Germans... they want to take all our money from us," schoolgirl Evan Ieridou, 17 said at the student protest.

Finance Minister Michalis Sarris meanwhile warned that the "haircut" that will be imposed on large deposits at the Bank of Cyprus could be greater than expected at 40 percent.

The financial controls should be lifted in "a matter of weeks", Sarris said.

The agreement struck early Monday will also see second largest lender Laiki wound up, with the parts of it that are salvaged being merged into Bank of Cyprus, dealing a major blow to jobs and the availability of credit to consumers and small businesses.

Fitch ratings agency downgraded the two banks to default category and placed the island's third biggest lender, Hellenic Bank, on negative watch.

The Cyprus bailout has stirred up fears among other struggling economies following Dijsselbloem's comments and stocks in Greece and Spain, two other indebted eurozone economies, both fell sharply on Tuesday.

Greek Finance Minister Yannis Stournaras insisted on Tuesday that the Cyprus deal only applied to the island country.

Many on the island feel that they have been made a scapegoat with the unprecedented demand by eurozone creditors for bank depositors to pay so much of the cost of the bailout.

Wealthy eurozone governments like Germany had refused to bail out Cyprus unless it agreed to put an end to what they regarded as a "casino" financial sector dependent on hot money from countries like Russia.

Taxpayers should no longer bail out banks: Finnish PM



HELSINKI (AFP) - Finland called Tuesday for eurozone taxpayers to be spared from bailing out troubled banks in the future, insisting that shareholders and investors ought to foot the bill instead.

"Everywhere in Europe we should be moving towards a normal market economy, where owners and investors suffer losses in the event of a bank failure," Finnish Prime Minister Jyrki Katainen said during a speech about Europe in Helsinki.

He said he hoped a European banking union in the process of being created would have that as a founding principle, otherwise "we will remain in the current situation where the taxpayer pays for bank crises," he told reporters after his speech.

Plans for the banking union include provisions for a 'bail-in' mechanism under which shareholders, then creditors and if needed large depositors would pay for winding up failed banks.

Details on the operation of the first stage of the banking union, a single supervisor, are due to be resolved this year but agreements about winding down banks and shoring up deposit insurance may take years.

Following his speech, members of the prime minister's entourage seemed however to want to tone down his remarks, telling AFP that Finland considered the Cyprus rescue package a "unique" case and not a model to be followed from now on.

They also recalled the Finnish government's position that small savers -- those with deposits of less than 100,000 euros -- must have their savings protected.

Under the Cyprus bailout agreed in Brussels on Monday, deposits up to 100,000 euros (\$130,000) are insured and not subject to any tax, while Popular Bank -- Laiki in Greek -- will be wound down and depositors with more than 100,000 euros will face big losses.

In Finland, the only eurozone country to still enjoy a top "triple A" rating from all three main international credit ratings agencies, taxpayers have grown increasingly hostile to the idea of taking part in rescues in other countries.

A recent opinion poll commissioned by Finnish public broadcaster YLE showed that half of Finns no longer want to finance rescue packages abroad even if it means the dissolution of the eurozone.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



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Pope Francis adorns Rome bus and metro tickets

ROME (AFP) - Rome has printed one million bus and metro tickets bearing Pope Francis' silhouette, the city's transport operator said Tuesday.

Atac said the limited edition tickets will go on sale on Wednesday and depicts the Argentinian pontiff as he greeted the crowd from the balcony of

St Peter's Basilica just after his appointment on March 13.

The tickets are valid for a limited period on all of Rome's bus and metro services.

"Atac pays homage to the new pope who appreciates public transport," it said, referring to the Argentinian pontiff's habit of using the bus-

and metro system when he was the archbishop of Buenos Aires.

Rome's mayor Gianni Alemanno welcomed the news.

"It's a beautiful initiative," he said. "It's a way of greeting the new pontiff and wish him welcome."

Just two weeks into his pontificate, the pope has gained a

strong following for his simple and friendly manner, drawing large crowds to the Sunday Angelus prayer in St Peter's Square.

Upon the beatification of John Paul II two years ago, Atac launched a similar initiative, issuing limited edition tickets that were adorned with the late pope's portrait.

Contestant dies during filming of French 'Survivor'

PHNOM PENH (AFP) - Filming of the French version of the hit reality TV show "Survivor" has been cancelled after a contestant died of a heart attack on a tropical Cambodian island on the first day.

French broadcaster TF1 said it had axed the 2013 season of the show, called "Koh Lanta", after 25-year-old Gerald Babin fell ill on Friday during filming on Koh Rong off Cambodia's southwestern coast.

Cambodian Tourism Minister Thong Khon said the TV crew had planned to spend five months in the kingdom.

"The contestants have already gone home," he told AFP on Tuesday. "The family members have arrived in Cambodia to collect the body."

According to Adventure Line Productions, which was filming the show for TF1, Babin complained of cramps during one of the challenges set for contestants and received emergency medical care from the show's doctor.

It did not say exactly what he was doing at the time.

Babin was airlifted to hospital in nearby Sihanoukville but later died, according to Cambodian police, who said there were no suspicious circumstances.

Koh Lanta -- named after an island off Thailand's Andaman Coast -- drew more than seven million viewers for its previous series, which was the 15th since its launch in 2001.

The original show has since been adapted for dozens of international versions, some of which have also been struck by tragedy in the past.

Budget Car Rental celebrating 50 years budget-minded service!



Explore Aruba in a Jeep wrangler hard top

The car rental name synonymous with savings will next month celebrate their golden anniversary of operating on Aruba! One of the first of its kind to establish a car rental agency with highly competitive prices, it still maintains that standard of offering the best service, a diverse fleet of vehicles to meet each renters needs, at the best price possible.

Budget has a fleet of 250 autos on Aruba, ranging from subcompact to authentic Jeep Wrangler® hardtop 4X4 or the stylish Toyota Rav 4, for exploring Aruba's outback in air-conditioned comfort. Their standard Toyota Yaris, the most popular model, is known for quality and dependability. Each year, they refresh 25% of their fleet and

retire the older cars. Compared to the U.S., car rentals are quite affordable on Aruba, with the third party liability insurance included in the rental rates, as required by law.

Budget's head office is in Camacuri, not far from the airport, but they maintain an outlet right at the airport and another conveniently located in the Arawak Gardens in Palm Beach, an easy stroll from all the Palm Beach resorts. Budget will provide free transportation to their Arawak Gardens outlet from any hotel, and return you



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Budget has become the world's third largest car rental franchise because of their commitment to quality service and product at the best price possible, and the staff of Budget Car Rental Aruba is equally dedicated to seeing their customers smile

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by



the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community

of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facili-

ties such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Grandma's classic Stew beef with Rice and Potato salad

An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varella Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. Varella's mom,

Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena -"Full Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted

Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses for Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin, each including a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef

and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local.

They are open daily, from 11:00 am to 11:00pm,

Tel: 5860606 and email: saus.arubancuisine@live.com, offering indoor and outdoor dining. Aside from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!

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Sport

Football: Netherlands close in on Brazil spot

AMSTERDAM (AFP) - Manchester United star Robin van Persie bagged a brace as the Netherlands continued their march to Brazil with a 4-0 win over Romania yesterday at the Amsterdam ArenA.

In so doing the 29-year-old reached 34 international goals, overtaking the legendary Johan Cruyff.

Rafael van der Vaart scored the opener and Jeremain Lens added gloss in the last minute as the Dutch stretched their perfect record to six matches, and their lead at the top of qualifying Group D to seven points.

The Netherlands need just two more wins from their final four matches to ensure their passage to the finals in Brazil next year.

Even without injured playmaker Wesley Sneijder, Louis van Gaal's team were simply too good for their visitors.

Van Persie teed up Van der Vaart to score his 24th goal in 105 appearances for the Oranje after just 12 minutes.

With Adrian Mutu warming the bench for three-quarters of the game, Romania were starved of possession and failed to register a single shot on target in the opening period.

Van Persie headed home the second on 56 minutes after good work from Daley Blind and Arjen Robben before slotting home a penalty nine minutes later after Cristian Tanase fouled Lens, who rounded off the rout late on.

Having already thumped Romania 4-1 in Bucharest, the Netherlands completed a crushing double over their opponents, who dropped to third in the standings, a point behind Hungary.

The clean sheet meant the Netherlands have not conceded a goal in a home World Cup qualifier for more than 1,100 minutes.

Angels finalize trade of Vernon Wells to Yankees



TEMPE- The Angels finalized their trade of Vernon Wells to the New York Yankees on Tuesday after the veteran outfielder passed a physical and the commissioner's office approved the cash being exchanged in the deal.

The Angels will pay \$28.1 million of the remaining \$42 million on Wells' contract, which runs through 2014, meaning the Yankees will pick up \$13.9 million of the deal. The Yankees sent Class-A pitcher Kramer Sneed and Class-A outfielder Exicardo Cayones to the Angels.

Wells, a huge disappointment during his two years in Anaheim, when he hit a combined .222 with 36 home runs and 95 runs batted in while being paid \$21 million a

year, agreed Sunday morning to waive his no-trade clause, and by Sunday afternoon, his Tempe Diablo Stadium locker was empty and he had said his goodbyes.

The Yankees and Angels actually discussed a trade for Wells over the winter but could not consummate a deal. But with Alex Rodriguez, Mark Teixeira, Curtis Granderson and Derek Jeter opening the season on the disabled list, New York was desperate to add offense.

The trade also removes any temptation Manager Mike Scioscia might have to turn to Wells if Bourjos, a speedy center fielder General Manager Jerry Dipoto wants to give every chance to succeed, gets off to a slow start.

Tennis: Serena, Ferrer advance at Miami



Williams, trying to become the first six-time winner in Miami history, will face either defending champion and fourth seed Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland or 30th-seeded Belgian Kirsten Flipkens in the semi-finals.

Williams won Miami titles 2002, 2003, 2004, 2007 and 2008. The 15-time Grand Slam champion also captured last year's US Open, Wimbledon and Olympic crowns.

Li made a strong return to the tour at Miami after an ankle injury suffered in losing the Australian Open final.

Williams improved to 7-1 against Li with her sixth victory in a row, Li's only win coming at Stuttgart in 2008.

In the men's draw Spanish third seed David Ferrer advanced to the quarter-finals

with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Japan's 13th-seeded Kei Nishikori.

Ferrer won 84 percent of his first-serve points and 5-of-9 break chances to eliminate Nishikori and book a last eight-date against Austria's Jurgen Melzer, who defeated Spain's Albert Ramos 2-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Fifth-ranked Ferrer improved to 3-2 in his meetings with Nishikori, having avenged a round-of-16 loss at the Olympics by defeating the Japanese player in the fourth round of this year's Australian Open.

World No. 1 Novak Djokovic of Serbia meets German 15th seed Tommy Haas in a later fourth-round match and British second seed Andy Murray will meet Italian 16th seed Andreas Seppi.

Murray lost to Djokovic in last year's Miami final.

MIAMI (AFP) - World No. 1 Serena Williams advanced to the semi-finals of the \$8.5 million WTA and ATP Masters Miami hardcourt event on Tuesday by defeating Chinese fifth seed Li Na 6-3, 7-6 (7/5).

Breaking Li three times in each set, Williams surrendered her own serve three times in the match to win after one hour and 50 minutes. She had three aces and six double faults to one ace and seven double faults for Li.

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Football: Spain beats France, Balotelli brace gives Italy cushion



Mario Balotelli

PARIS (AFP) - World Cup holders Spain retook control of qualifying Group I on Tuesday with a 1-0 win against France in Paris, Pedro

Rodriguez scoring the only goal of the game in the second half at the Stade de France.

With just three matches left to play in Group I, Spain now lead France by a point, with only one team qualifying automatically for the finals in Brazil.

While in Valetta, Mario Balotelli scored both goals as Italy defeated Malta 2-0 here to move three points clear at the top of their World Cup qualifying group B on Tuesday.

The AC Milan striker opened his account early in the first half from the penalty spot before doubling his tally just before half-time, making it 10 goals in his last nine matches for both club and country.

With Denmark held to a 1-1 draw in Copenhagen by second-placed Bulgaria, Italy extended their lead at the top of their group and even have a game in hand.

Meanwhile, Malta remain rooted to the bottom of the group with zero points from five matches.

The hosts started reasonably brightly, pressing the Azzurri at every opportunity and not allowing them time to settle on the ball. But it was that eagerness to close down at every moment which was soon to be Malta's undoing.

NBA: Heat chasing history as 27-win streak hits Chicago



CHICAGO (AFP) - Six games shy of matching the longest win streak in NBA history, the Miami Heat will play today at Chicago with more concern about repeating as NBA champions than boosting their epic 27-game run.

Powered by superstar playmaker LeBron James, the Heat have compiled the second-best win streak in major North American professional sport, trailing only the 33-game NBA win streak of the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers.

But winning the last playoff game will always be more important to James than winning the 34th in a row.

The Heat, who have not lost since February 1 at Indiana, own the NBA's best record at 56-14 as they open a three-game road trip against the Bulls (38-31), with games Friday at New Orleans (25-46) and Sunday at San Antonio (53-17).

The Spurs are seen as the most difficult obstacle to the Heat beating the Lakers' streak, but if the streak clears that hurdle on Sunday then the Heat will have 30 wins in a row.

Miami would then have a home game April 2 against New York, a visit to Charlotte on April 5, a home game against Philadelphia on April 6 and a home game April 8 against Milwaukee for the record 34th in a row.

It was Milwaukee which snapped the Lakers' win streak in 1972 and Lakers legend Jerry West, a star guard whose silhouette is used in the NBA

logo, recalled how that defeat felt.

West is cheering for the Heat to break the mark he helped establish.

West sees the Spurs as the Heat's biggest threat to making history.

"Unless they have a horrible, horrible shooting night, I don't see any of those other teams beating them," West said. "They have great three-point shooting and they're never out of a game because of that."

"And then they have the best player in the game (James) who does all the little things."

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Anouk Eman takes 2 bronze medals at U.S. National Collegiate Synchronized Swimming Championships



-- In the US there are many colleges and universities that carry a special program of synchronized swimming. The level of these programs is very high. Aruba has their top athlete in the synchronized swimming sport competing for the University of Lindenwood in the US.

This week Anouk competed in the US Nationals Collegiate Synchronized Swimming Championships and finished in third place in duets (together with Reem Abdelazem of Egypt) to win bronze and third place in trio

which also give her a bronze medal. She also moved up to the fourth position on the team.

Lindenwood also won gold in solo: Mary Killman won gold and Reem Abdelazem bronze.

Anouk's next competition is in the US Nationals in April. This will also be Anouk's final competition for her school for this year.

Next Anouk will be competing for Aruba in July at the CCCAN games, World Championships in Barcelona

and also at the UANA PANAMERICAN Champi-

onships in August.

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